



Australian Bureau of Statistics

CensusAtSchool Australia

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Resources



CaSMa03 - Are Students Being Taken For A Ride?

You can download this activity, the teacher solutions and the assessment rubric for this activity as a rich text file (RTF) at the bottom of the page. Download our printer friendly Prepared Samples as Excel files or access data using the Random Sampler.

Subject Area

Mathematics

Key Statistical Literacy Competencies Addressed

- Data awareness
- The ability to understand statistical concepts
- The ability to analyse, interpret and evaluate statistical information
- Communicating statistical information and understandings

Overview

Almost everyday, students from across Australia make the journey to school. There are many ways in which students travel to get there. In this activity students are asked to determine how students in their state/territory travelled to school. They can then compare their findings to data from the previous year's questionnaire to see if there has been any change. On the CensusAtSchool questionnaire, students are asked "What is the main method of travel that you usually use to get to school?".

Requirements

- Computer with internet connection
- Spreadsheet software

- Calculator
- Pens and paper
- Student Worksheet

Instructions

Task One: How did students travel to school?

1. Go to the CensusAtSchool Random Sampler and get a sample of at least 100 students from your state/territory. (You can try to get a sample from a postcode range that covers your school but, please be aware that successfully getting a sample will depend on how many students submitted a questionnaire. The larger the postcode range the greater the chance of getting a sample)

Reference year *Select Year*. *Don't select 2006, you use 2006 data in Task 2*
Select questions All

2. Complete the table below:

How Australian Students Travel to School

	Number of students	Percentage of students		
Walk				
Car				
Rail				
Bus				
Cycle				
Skateboard			Not Included	Not Included
Boat			Not Included	Not Included
Same Location as School	Not Included	Not Included		
Motor Cycle	Not Included	Not Included		
Other				
Total				

(Hint: It will be easier to count the number of students in each category if you sort the data first. If you are good at Excel it will be even easier if you use the COUNTIF function to do the counting for you. The two extra columns are for Question 5)

3. Draw a graph to represent the data in your table.

4. Write an answer to the question "How did students travel to school?"

Task Two: Have things changed since 2006?

5. Complete a table similar to the one above for 2006 data. You can prepare a separate table or use the two extra columns in Question 2.
6. Draw a graph to represent the data in your table. A side by side bar chart with both sets of data on the same axis will make comparisons clear to see.
7. Write an answer the question “Has there been any change between 2006 and now?”
8. Are there any difficulties in comparing the two different sets of data? What are they and how important are they?

Task Three: Present your findings

9. Display your table, graph and findings in a creative and entertaining way and present it to the rest of your class.

Extension

10. Take a survey of your class and repeat this lesson using the new data.
11. Is your class a typical Australian class? Explain.

Download the Activity

Student Worksheet

RTF

Teacher Solutions

RTF

Assessment Rubric

RTF

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